

REMARKS

The drawings stand objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In addition, claims 12 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for lacking enablement. In response to the foregoing objection and rejection, claims 12 and 14-16 have been cancelled. It is believed that the cancellation of claims obviates the need for corrected drawing sheets in the Office Action.

Claims 10, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by U.S. Patent No. 6,716,061 to Pitschi et al. Claims 11 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness from the teachings of the Pitschi et al. patent.

In response to the rejection thereof, claim 10 has been amended to recite that the at least one metal supporting element, configured to be exposed to the environmental influences, is produced from copper-tin-zinc cast bronze and claim 11 has been cancelled. Support for the amendment to claim 10 is found on page 4, lines 10-12 of the application as originally filed. The Pitschi et al. patent discloses that at least wall 15 can be made of a suitable springy material, such as brass or bronze with a copper base. See Pitschi et al. (column 6, lines 40-42). However, the Pitschi et al. patent does not disclose, teach or suggest a supporting element produced from a copper-tin-zinc cast bronze. Absent such disclosure, teaching or suggestion, the Pitschi et al. patent cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 10, or claims 13 and 17-19 dependent from claim 10.

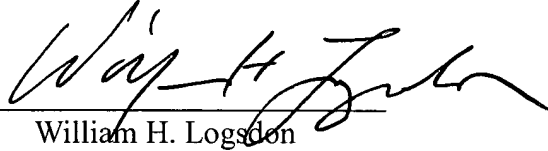
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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objection and rejections and allowance of claims 10, 13 and 17-19 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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